

In May 2025, the South Carolina Legislature passed [H.3430](#), which has significant impacts for licensees who sell alcohol for on-premises consumption.

Alcohol Server Certificate Required

You must complete an approved server training program to receive an SCDOR Alcohol Server Certificate if you:

- work 10 or more hours/week serving alcohol for on-premises consumption
- **or**
- are a manager that oversees alcohol service

Training must be completed by **March 2, 2026**, or within 30 days of employment.

⚠️ Only SCDOR approved alcohol server training programs qualify.

- Find approved server training programs at dor.sc.gov/abl-server-training.
- Training programs only for penalty mitigation do not qualify.

After successfully completing an approved program, servers will receive a certificate number from the training provider. The provider has 10 days to submit this information to the SCDOR, who will then make the certificates available online.

To download an alcohol server certificate, go to dor.sc.gov/AlcoholServerCertificate. You'll need the server's name and server certificate number.

Penalties

- **Failing to maintain/produce copies of alcohol server certificates** for all managers and alcohol servers throughout their employment: \$100 fine/violation
- **Allowing an employee without a valid alcohol server certificate** to serve alcohol: \$500 fine/violation
- **Allowing an intoxicated or otherwise impaired employee** to serve alcohol:
First offense: \$100 fine | Second offense: \$500 fine | Third offense: \$1,000 fine and a 5-day suspension | Fourth offense: 30-day suspension

Forensic Digital ID Verification Required

Licensees selling alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption between 12 AM and 4 AM must use a forensic digital identification system to validate the ID of anyone attempting to enter the premises.

Forensic digital identification systems must:

- scan the barcode on an ID card and review the barcode's data against a Department of Motor Vehicles database to determine if the cardholder is 21 or older.
- analyze the barcode and the information contained for typos, jumbled or incorrect information, misplaced data, and secret coding.
 - The system cannot *only* validate that the information received from the barcode matches the ID information on the front of the card.

The SCDOR has approved the following forensic digital identification systems:

- Intellicheck Identity Verification
 - Tokenworks AgeVisor 3
 - Tokenworks IDentiFake
 - Tokenworks IDVisor Smart V2 ID Scanner
- To submit a forensic digital identification system for approval, contact the SCDOR at ABL@dor.sc.gov.*

New Penalties Required

The law imposes new penalties for the following violations:

- Selling/transferring beer and/or wine to a person under 21 years of age.
- Selling beer or wine to an intoxicated person.
- Permitting gambling or games of chance except certain game promotions.
- Permitting lewd, immoral, or improper entertainment.
- Permitting any act that constitutes a crime under the laws of South Carolina.
- Permitting any act that tends to create a public nuisance.
- Selling, offering for sale, or possessing any beverage or alcoholic liquors the sale or possession of which is prohibited on the licensed premises under the laws of South Carolina.
- Conducting, operating, organizing, promoting, advertising, running, or participating in a drinking contest or drinking game.

Penalties

- **First offense:** \$2,500 fine
- **Second offense** within 2 years of the first offense: Permit suspended up to 14 days
- **Third offense** within 3 years of the first offense: Permit revoked

Need help?

Contact the Alcohol Beverage Licensing department and find more information online.

Phone: 803-898-5864 | **Email:** ABL@dor.sc.gov | **Web:** dor.sc.gov/abl